

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has initialed all references listed on the form PTO-1449 filed with an IDS on March 2, 2004. **However, the Examiner has not returned an initialed form PTO-1449 that was submitted with the IDS filed concurrently with the present application on August 6, 2003. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner consider the references listed on the form PTO-1449 submitted on August 3, 2003 and initial the enclosed copy of the form PTO-1449 to confirm that the two listed Japanese references have in fact been considered and made of record. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is respectfully requested.**

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by what the Examiner characterizes as admitted prior art. In fact that which is shown in FIG. 5 of the present application is not prior art, but rather is related art. Nonetheless, in an effort to further prosecution and without providing further comment on the merits of the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 1-7 without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 8-10.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the present application is now in condition for allowance. A prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Although no additional fees are believed to be due, permission is hereby given to charge any unforeseen fees to deposit account 50-1147.

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Respectfully submitted,



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